

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 L-03  
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-----104628 250528Z /20

R 241555Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1027  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1140

3.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MILI, EAIR, ECON, ETRD, BF, US  
SUBJECT: NAVFAC ELEUTHERA AIRFIELD, GOVERNORS HARBOR, ELEUTHERA

1. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE FROM THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON 23 MAY:  
" THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF THE BAHAMAS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER  
TO THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY AIRFIELD AT GOVERNOR'S  
HARBOUR, ELEUTHERA.

"THE SITE OF THE AIRFIELD AT GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR IS THE  
MOST IDEAL LOCATION FOR A MAJOR AIRPORT FACILITY IN ELEU-  
THERA.

"THE MINISTRY IS INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CLUB MEDITERANEE AT GOVERNOR'S  
HARBOUR, ELEUTHERA IS WELL ADVANCED AND THAT THE CLUB IS  
SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

"IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CLUB WILL BE MOVING  
OVER 600 GUESTS PER WEEK INTO AND OUT OF GOVERNOR'S  
HARBOUR. THE INCREASED VOLUME OF TRAFFIC AND THE NEED  
TO USE LARGER AIRCRAFT WILL NECESSITATE THE LENGTHEN-  
ING OF THE RUNWAY FROM 6,000 FEET TO IDEALLY 11,000  
FEET TO PERMIT THE TAKEOFF OF LONG RANGE JETS FULLY  
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LOADED WITH PASSENGERS AND FUEL OR ALTERNATIVELY TO  
A MINIMUM OF 8,300 FEET WHICH WILL PERMIT THE TAKEOFF  
OF LARGE AIRCRAFT WITH FULL LOAD OF PASSENGERS BUT  
NOT WITH FULL FUEL TANKS.

"FURTHER, TERMINAL AND PARKING FACILITIES WILL  
ALSO NEED TO BE PROVIDED. IN 1977 BAHAMASAIR ALONE  
CARRIED 16,193 PASSENGERS INTO AND OUT OF GOVERNOR'S

HARBOUR. THE CLUB MEDITERANEE TRAFFIC IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 52,000 PASSENGERS AND WERE THE RUNWAY TO BE EXTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE LARGER JET AIRCRAFT, DIRECT CHARTERS CARRYING PASSENGERS TO OTHER ELEUTHERA RESORTS AND INCREASED TRAFFIC BY BAHAMASAIR COULD ACCOUNT FOR ANOTHER 20,000 PASSENGERS. IT IS THEREFORE CONCEIVABLE THAT THE BUILDUP COULD REACH ABOUT 90,000 PASSENGERS WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO.

"THE MINISTRY IS ALSO INFORMED THAT THERE WOULD BE THE NEED FOR THE CONTROL TOWER TO BE MANNED FOR THE LANDING AND TAKEOFF OF FLIGHTS, PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT.

" IN VIEW OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE, THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE EMBASSY'S GOVERNMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

(A) PERMISSION TO EXTEND THE AUXILIARY AIRFIELD AT GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR, ELEUTHERA PREFERABLY TO 11,000 FEET OR NOT LESS THAN 8,300 FEET.

(B) PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT A TERMINAL BUILDING TO ACCOMMODATE THE ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BUILD UP TO 90,000 PASSENGERS WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO.

(C) PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT A PARKING AREA FOR SOME 50 VEHICLES.

(D) PROVISION OF A CONTROLLER TO MAN THE TRAFFIC  
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CONTROL TOWER AS NEEDED.

"THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS SINCERELY TRUST THAT IN VIEW OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS EXTANT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE EMBASSY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK FAVORABLE (SIC) UPON THIS REQUEST.

"AS TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN COMPLETING THE EXPANDED FACILITIES TO MEET TRAFFIC DEMANDS BY 1ST DECEMBER 1978, THE MINISTRY WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE URGENT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER.

" THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.  
SCHWARTZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOURISM, CONSTRUCTION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MILI, EAIR, ECON, ETRD, BF, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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